

UNITY OF PURPOSE

For parents, it is very reassuring to know that their local school is concerned not only with reading and writing, but is also looking out for their child's health and well-being.

William Casey, District Superintendent, Brooklyn, New York, 1997

Screening high-risk populations for tuberculosis (TB) and treating those with infection has been shown to be a cost-beneficial component of a comprehensive TB elimination strategy.

Mohle-Boetani et al, Journal of American Medical Association, 1995; Vol. 274

Targeted TB screening rather than universal screening of children is recommended.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, 2001

Targeted tuberculin screening based on similar risk categories has been endorsed by the American Thoracic Society, the CDC, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. A risk assessment is a valid instrument for identifying children for tuberculin skin testing.

Ozuah et al, Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001; Vol. 285

Main Collaborative Partners

San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) TB Control Program

Escondido Union High School District

Sweetwater Union High School District

Fallbrook Union High School District

San Diego County Office of Education
Migrant Education Program

American Lung Association

Community Health Centers

Would you like to partner with us?

SAFE—T—Net is made possible through grants from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).



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A Network of
Schools And Families Eliminating
Tuberculosis

SAFE - T - Net, a program of the San Diego County Office of Public Health, TB Control Program in collaboration with the public schools, provides access to screening and treatment services for children at high risk for the development of tuberculosis (TB) disease.

General estimates are that 10% of the United States population is infected with TB. Based on these numbers, approximately 300,000 persons in San Diego have TB infection, of whom 10% (30,000) will go on to develop TB disease at some time in their lives.



Mission

The SAFE-T-Net Program promotes the health and safety of adolescents in San Diego County through targeted school-linked tuberculosis (TB) screening, education, and treatment.

Program Goals

- Promote healthy adolescent development
- Increase access to TB information and education
- Increase access to screening and treatment of TB infection
- Provide training on strategies for TB infection screening and treatment
- Increase access to health department resources and technical support
- Involve families and the community in prevention services
- Commit to continuing improvement

High school age students have the highest rates of TB infection and disease of all school-age children. In the year 2002, it is estimated that 43,430 young people (15-24 years of age) in San Diego County were infected with TB. Ten percent of them (4,343) will go on to develop TB disease at some point in their lifetime.

Program Description

The SAFE-T-Net Program is one of several federally funded projects to develop successful approaches to prevent TB in high-risk populations. This program aims to improve the capacity of San Diego County school districts to prevent and eliminate TB among at-risk high school students. Developed by a multi-agency community partnership, SAFE-T-Net provides education, training, and support for students, parents, and school staff. Through culturally appropriate and empowering presentations and training, students and parents gain confidence that they have the knowledge and resources to live healthy lives free of TB disease. At the same time, schools are promoting a healthy and safe environment to maximize academic success and student attendance. This collaborative program partners with the public schools helps to build a safety net that provides both early screening and treatment of latent TB infection (LTBI).



In the past 9 years, while the number of US-born persons getting TB disease has decreased, this has not been true for persons born in countries where TB is more common. In the year 2002, those born outside of the US comprised 69% of San Diego County's cases.

Program Planning

The SAFE-T-Net planning phase allows flexibility in program design that promotes collaboration and sustainability. School districts meet with their advisory teams to examine options for program target population and implementation strategies. The result is a customized action plan.

Targeting At-Risk Students

Students at high-risk are those who have been close to someone who has TB, or who were born in countries where TB is common (i.e. Mexico or another Latin American country, countries in Asia or Africa, or from Eastern Europe).

* A short student risk assessment for TB exposure is available.

Program Components

For School Staff

- Technical Assistance
- Training and Support

For Students/Parents

- TB Awareness
- Screening
- Treatment of TB Infection